

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

VICTOR RUIZ,
Plaintiff,
v.
ELKO COUNTY JAIL,
Defendant.

Case No.: 3:23-cv-00352-MMD-CLB

ORDER
(ECF No. 1)

On July 14, 2023, pro se plaintiff Victor Ruiz, an inmate at Elko County Detention Center, submitted a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and applied to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1-1, 1). The application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is incomplete because Plaintiff failed to include an inmate trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period with the application, and the financial certificate that Plaintiff included has not been completed or signed by a jail official. (See ECF No. 1 at 4).

This Court must collect filing fees from parties initiating civil actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The fee for filing a civil-rights action is \$402, which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$52 administrative fee. See 28 U.S.C. § 1914(b). “Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to the court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.” Nev. Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-1. For an inmate to apply for *in forma pauperis* status, the inmate must submit **all three** of the following documents to the Court: (1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate**, which is pages 1–3 of the Court’s approved form, that is properly signed by the inmate twice on page 3; (2) a completed **Financial Certificate**, which is page 4 of the Court’s approved form, that is properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail official; and (3) a copy of the **inmate’s prison or jail trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period**. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1)–(2); Nev. Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-2. *In forma pauperis* status does not relieve an inmate of his or her obligation to pay the filing fee, it just means that the inmate can pay the fee in installments. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

1 It is therefore ordered that the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1)
2 is denied without prejudice.

3 It is further ordered that Plaintiff has **until Monday, October 2, 2023** to either pay
4 the full \$402 filing fee or file a new fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis*
5 with all three required documents: (1) a completed application with the inmate's two
6 signatures on page 3, (2) a completed financial certificate that is signed both by the
7 inmate and the prison or jail official, and (3) a copy of the inmate's trust fund account
8 statement for the previous six-month period.

9 Plaintiff is cautioned that this action will be subject to dismissal without prejudice if
10 he fails to timely comply with this order. A dismissal without prejudice allows Plaintiff to
11 refile the case with the Court, under a new case number, when he can file a complete
12 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the required filing fee.

13 The Clerk of the Court is directed to send Plaintiff Victor Ruiz the approved form
14 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* for an inmate and instructions for the same and
15 retain the complaint (ECF No. 1-1) but not file it at this time.

16 DATED THIS 2nd day of August 2023.

17
18 
19 _____
20 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28